

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
-----031747Z 006445 /43

O 031641Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2185

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0567

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR SHUM CZ PPDC
SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER FROM PAVEL KOHOUT

REF: PRAGUE 0566

1. KOHOUT MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER CONSISTS
OF COVERING LETTER AND TEXT OF A PROPOSED OPEN
LETTER.

(A) FULL TEXT OF COVERING LETTER: QTE

"DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,
ENCLOSED YOU WILL FIND MY LETTER /IN A ROUGH
TRANSLATION/ INSPIRED BOTH BY YOUR ACTIVITIES TILL
NOW AND MY MY PRESENT EXPERIENCES. THOUGH IT IS
AN OPEN LETTER WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO GET PUBLI-
SHED, I AM SENDING IT NOW ONLY TO YOU AND ASK YOU
AT THE SAME TIME KINDLY TO DECIDE AS TO THE TIME
AND WAY OF ITS PUBLICATION. /IN WHICH CASE ONE
CAN DO A NEW TRANSLATION FROM THE CZECH ORIGINAL
I ENCLOSE./ ONLY IN CASE I WOULD HAVE REASONS TO
BELIEVE YOU DID NOT GET THE LETTER I WOULD HAND
IT OVER TO THE PRESS MYSELF. I THINK THE CONTENTS
OF THE LETTER CANNOT BUT CONVINCE YOU THAT FOR MY
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PART THERE IS NO INTENTION TO HEIGHTEN TENSIONS
OR TO DEEPEN ANY RIFTS, BUT EXACTLY THE OTHER WAY
ROUND. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, I AM CONCERNED
ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ANYONE IN THE DIVIDED
WORD OF TODAY REALLY TO LIVE AS A HUMAN BEING.

EXPRESSING MY DEEPEST RESPECT FOR YOU, I RE-
MAIN

SINCERELY YOURS

PAVEL KOHOUT

/THE AUTHOR OF THE PLAY POOR MURDERER, WHICH WAS
PRODUCED DURING THE CURRENT SEASON ON BROADWAY/
118 00 PRAHA 1, HRADCANSKE NAMESTI 1, CSSR" UNQTE

(B) FULL TEXT OF PROPOSED OPEN LETTER: QTE

"DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

EVEN DURING THE FIRST WEEKS OF YOUR PRESIDENCY
YOU SAID MORE THAN ONCE, AND PROVED, THAT THE OB-
SERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES BE-
LONGS AMONG THE MAIN PROBLEMS YOU ARE NOT ONLY IN-
TERESTED IN, BUT WHICH YOU FIRST OF ALL WISH TO
SOLVE. ALLOW ME TO WELCOME THE FACT AS A CITIZEN
OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AS AN INHABITANT OF THE PLANET,
AND AS A MEMBER OF THE WIDE SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY
OF WRITERS FOR WHOM IT ALWAYS WAS, IS NOW, AND IS
GOING TOO BE, THE THEME NUMBER ONE.

I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU SAY AND DO AS A PEACE INITIATIVE,
AS AN APPEAL FOR MUTUAL TOLERATION, AND AS
THE EXPRESSION OF YOUR CONVICTION THAT ALL THE
STATESMEN WHO SIGNED THE VARIOUS PACTS, AND IN THE
END THE HELSINKI DECLARATION, ARE OBLIGED TO EN-
SURE THEIR FULFILMENT. FOR ME IT IS THE GREAT, AND
AS A MATTER OF FACT THE FIRST, REAL HOPE FOR ALL
THE DIVIDED WORLD OF TODAY. I SEE YOUR POINTS OF
VIEW AS AN EXPRESSION OF YOUR SOLIDARITY CONCER-
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NING ALL THOSE IN THE WORLD WHO TRY TO MAINTAIN
THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIVERTIES FOR THEMSELVES
AS WELL AS FOR OTHER PEOPLE; WHO INSIST ON
THEIR VALIDITY WITHOUT EXCEPTION FOR PEOPLE OF ANY
LANGUAGE, RACE, BELIEF OR POLITICAL CONVICTION;
WHO ARE CONVINCED THAT THE RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES ARE
THE VERY BASE WHICH IS GOING TO PREVENT THE WORLD
FROM TUMBLING DOWN.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MADE
IT POSSIBLE TO CONTROL, BY THE USE OF SATELLITE CA-
MERAS, ANY SQUARE METER OF THE EARTH, SO THAT ANY
SECRET CONCENTRATION OF ATTACKING FORCES IS ALMOST
IMPOSSIBLE. THE STATES SOLEMNLY PLEDGE THEMSELVES,
BUT THEY DO NOT CEASE FROM CONTROLLING. IT IS LOGI-
CAL THAT IN A SIMILAR WAY LIVING EYES MUST SUPER-
VISE THE HIMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES TO FORE-
STALL ANY CONCENTRATION OF INJUSTICE AND LAWLESS-
NESS WHICH ARE THE FERTILE SOIL FOR VIOLENCE. THE

GOVERNMENTS MAY HAVE ALL THE GOODWILL, BUT THEY CANNOT BY ALL EYES. IF EVEN THIS KIND OF CARE BECOMES ALL-ROUND AND MUTUAL, NO ONE CAN EVER CALL IT INTERFERENCE, JUST AS BY NOW THE REGISTRATION OF WEAPONS IS NOT CONSIDERED ONE.

YOU HAVE INCREASED, MR. PRESIDENT, THE NUMBER OF STATESMEN WHO ARE TRYING TO INTRODUCE MORAL VALUES INTO THE POLITICS, KNOWING THAT WHAT IS MORAL, IS AT THE SAME TIME REASONABLE, AND FOR THE REASON NECESSARY. IT IS A GREAT SUPPORT FOR THE CITIZENS WHO HAVE NO POWER AT THEIR DISPOSAL, BUT FOR ALL THEY THINK THAT EVEN THEIR VOICE HELPS AS FAR AS THERE IS CONCERNED THE CALMING DOWN OF HATES, THE REMOVAL OF PREJUDICES, AND THE CREATION OF NEW CONDITIONS WITHOUT THERE IS NOT MUCH HOPE FOR THE HUMANKIND TO KEEP ALIVE AND HEALTHY TILL THE NEXT

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MILLENNARY. THIS WAS THE ONLY REASON WHY I, TOGETHER WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED OF MY FELLOW-CITIZENS, SIGNED THE DECLARATION OF THE "CHARTER 77" CONCERNING THE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES IN MY OWN COUNTRY AS WELL AS IN ALL THE WORLD.

I WISH YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, ALL SUCCESS IN PUTTING THEM THROUGH IN ALL THE WORLD AS WELL AS IN YOUR OWN COUNTRY. EXPRESSING MY DEEPEST RESPECT FOR YOU, I REMAIN.

YOURS FAITHFULLY,
PAVEL KOHOUT" UNQTE

2. ORIGINALS AND CZECH-LANGUAGE TEXT OF OPEN LETTER BEING POUCHED.
BYRNE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, HUMAN RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRAGUE00567
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770073-0896
Format: TEL
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770396/aaaadhjd.tel
Line Count: 155
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fb0a38be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 PRAGUE 566
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3219128
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT CARTER FROM PAVEL KOHOUT
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, PPDC, CZ, (CARTER, JIMMY), (KOHOUT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fb0a38be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009